



***Thousands of Texas Children Need Families***  
**National Adoption Awareness Month Highlights Children Awaiting Adoption**

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[Regional Media Specialist](#)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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November is [National Adoption Month](#) and more than 6,000 Texas children and teens are waiting for adoption. Many ask themselves, "*Why not me? Why can't I have a family?*"

The good news is that more Texas children than ever before (5,672) got the answer they were looking for when they were adopted into their own forever family last year. Yet more children enter foster care every day in Texas. Some won't be able to return home and will eventually need adoptive families to start new lives that are free from abuse or neglect.

Older children tend to stay in foster care longer. This November, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) is asking caring adults, "*Why not you? Why not adopt an older child?*"

There are [many adoption events](#) across the state this month that put the spotlight on the many children waiting for a permanent family.

The average number of Texas children awaiting adoption increased by 31 percent over the last decade, but declined by almost 2 percent over the last year. Meanwhile, the number of children adopted from state care in Texas increased 3.2 percent over the last year and 68 percent over the last decade.

"Texas is doing a better job of finding permanent homes for children, but that's small consolation to any child who does not have one. Please help if you can by adopting an abused or neglected child," said DFPS Commissioner Hank Whitman.

Texas needs adoptive parents for children of all ages. Some of these children have special medical, physical, or emotional needs. The one thing they all have in common is the need for a forever family.

What greater gift than the gift of family? Children are waiting at [AdoptChildren.org](#). Find out more about [becoming an adoptive parent](#), because no child should ask, "*Why not me?*"

### **Adoption by the Numbers**

- **6,596** – The monthly average number of children in Texas Foster Care who were awaiting adoption last year. This was a 2 percent decline from the previous year.
- **6,388** – The number of children in DFPS care who were awaiting adoption as of September 2016 (latest data available).
- **5,672** – The number of children adopted from Texas foster care in fiscal year 2016. That is 3.2 percent increase from the previous year.
- **21** – The minimum age to be eligible to adopt a child in Texas.